



St. John's News

St. John's United Church of Christ
183 South Broad Street, Nazareth, PA 18064-2153
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All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast Buffet

Sunday, October 15
8:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Fraunfelder Hall

Sponsored by Summer Crew
Benefits our youth's 2018 summer events.

Menu

- Fresh Fruit Salad*
- Cinnamon Rolls*
- Chocolate Babka Rolls*
- Scrambled Eggs*
- Sausage, Peppers & Cheddar Scramble*
- Cream Dried Beef with Buttermilk
Biscuits*
- French Toast with
Maple Syrup & Butter*
- Ham & Egg Stuffed Biscuit*
- Fresh Breakfast Sausage*
- Applewood Smoked Bacon*
- Home Fries*
- Assorted Juices*
- Coffee and Tea*

\$7.00 - Adults \$3.00 - Children 3-10
Children under 3 - free



Golden Age Recognition



Sunday, October 22

during the 10:45 a.m. worship for our
members and guests 75+ years old.

Special Treat — One-Shot Golden Age Choir
Please join us for lunch following worship in
Fraunfelder Hall. Sign up in the DeRemer Gallery.

Golden Age Sponsorships

Golden Age Sunday this year will be held on **October 22, 2017** at the 10:45 a.m. worship service, where we will have the opportunity to honor those members of the congregation who are 75 years old or more.



In order to help defray the cost of expenses associated with Golden Age Sunday, please consider becoming a: **Gold Sponsor - \$25 and up** or **Silver Sponsor - \$10 and up**. Special envelopes for your donation are in the DeRemer Gallery.



October 1, 2017
8:00 and 10:45 a.m.



Getting Acquainted With the Bible

Sunday, October 22, 2017
9:15 a.m.

~ For youth who are presently in 4th and 5th grade. Parents are welcome.

~ You **MUST** register to attend by calling or emailing the Church Office no later than October 13.

~ Bibles will be presented on Sunday, October 29 during the Church School hour at 9:15 a.m. During the 10:45 worship service, we will ask all the children that received their Bibles, to come forward to be recognized.

October Church School News

The Church School teachers and children, pre-school through fifth grade, are excited to be learning about the Bible using our new curriculum, "FaithWeaver Now". Here are the Bible stories that we will be reading, hearing and experiencing during the month of October to help us see God in our everyday world.

The Key Bible Verse for this month is Deuteronomy 6:5. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

October 1: Adam and Eve Sin - Genesis 3
Bible Point: God wants us to make good choices.

October 8: Cain Kills Abel - Genesis 4:1-16
Bible Point: God wants us to love our families.

October 15: Noah Builds the Arc: Genesis 6:5-22
Bible Point: God wants us to obey.

October 22: God Floods the Earth: Genesis 7-8;
9:8-16
Bible Point: God never lies.

October 29: People Build a Tower at Babel:
Genesis 11: 1-9
Bible Point: We need God.

Dear God,

As the teachers and children gather together at church school each week to learn about You, we ask You to meet us here. Guide the teachers as they lead the children through the Bible. May the lessons taught be the seeds planted to guide the children throughout their lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



All Saints Celebration November 5, 2017

The *Remembrance Book* will be available and open for your entries in the **Miko Memorial Chapel** from **October 15 through November 5**. Feel free to write the names of any and all persons who have been your saints, mentors or loved ones and whom you want commemorated on All Saints' Day 2016.

~ Mark Your Calendar ~

- ~ November 5 - All Saints Day
- ~ November 12 - Robert H. Becker Memorial Concert
- Principally Harps Duo
- ~ November 19 - Congregational Meeting for Budget Approval
- ~ December 9, 12-4 p.m. - Christmas in Nazareth
- ~ Christmas Eve Services: 9:30 a.m., 4:00, 7:00 & 9:30 p.m.

New Fundraising Policy

On August 8, 2017, Consistory approved a policy regarding fundraisers that affect the church. The dates for all fundraisers should first be coordinated with the church office. Once an available date is established, the group proposing the fundraiser should request approval from the Consistory. The request should include the date and list the beneficiary of the fundraiser. Those groups that regularly have fundraisers must submit their requests for approval at the beginning of each year.

New Member Classes

Are you interested in learning more about joining St. John's? We will have classes on **Sundays, October 8 and 15 at 9:15 a.m.** in the **Wotring Parlor**.

Get a brief history of St. John's, learn about the United Church of Christ, and give us a chance to get to know you better! New members will be received on **Sunday, October 22** during worship. Join us if you would like to be a part of this gathering.

2017 - 2018 Consistory

Thank you to all who served on Consistory this past year; your time and thoughtful leadership were truly appreciated. Ruth Anderson, Stephen Eberly, Walt Fries, John Muscler, Meagan Manzo, Gwen Snyder and Logan Szabo completed their time of serving. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You and God-speed!

The 2017-2018 Consistory includes:

Elders: LauraLee Staudt, Secretary; Linda Danner, Treasurer; Debbie Claycomb, Kim Gerbino and Lou Murante. Deacons: Matt Sensenig, President, Andrea Abel-Faller, Vice-President; David Blackstone, Keith Dawe, Craig Johnson, Mindy Kern, Stephen Kraemer, Mark Madson, Patrick Stracko, Annie Schaller and Julie Schmittel. Youth: Johnathan Dieter and Rachael Muscler.



Matt Sensenig

Thank you for serving! We look forward to your leadership!

We extend warm and friendly **Birthday Greetings** to our members who are homebound and having a birthday in October.

October	12 - Phyllis Schmoyer
	14 - Will Weaver
	28 - Allen Hermansader



Happy Birthday, with our caring thoughts and prayers.



Sparks (Grades 4 -5)

Meets the first Sunday of the month from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

October 1, 6:00-7:00 p.m., in the House — It's a challenge!
Toilet paper, balloons and balls!

Xplosion (Grades 6-8)

Meets the first and third Sunday of the month from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the House.

October 1 — Who can stack cups the highest? Rock, paper, scissors and more...

October 15 — Come dressed as a famous person, living or dead; person must be real - no fictional character! Gift certificate for "the best".

Seekers (Grades 6-12)

Meets every Sunday from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the House. Times may vary according to the activities planned.

October 1 — On the street doubters.

October 8, 2:00-5:00 p.m. — Nothing like an apple picked right from the tree! **Apple picking at Grim's Orchards.**

October 29 — The Really Overdoing it Pumpkin Party! Pumpkin toss, pumpkin stuffing, pumpkin nose rolls, pumpkin bread, etc.

Summer Crew (Grades 9-12)

October 7 — Come visit the snack stand at the Women's Association Yard Sale.

October 15, 8:30-11:00 a.m. — **Fall Buffet Breakfast**

Women's Association Happenings

— There are spaces still available for the Multi-Family Yard Sale on **Saturday, October 7**. The cost for an 8 foot space with a table will be \$10.

— We are looking for people to help crochet the plastic mats for the homeless. We meet on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Thursdays starting at 6:00 p.m. or whatever time you can make it.

We have a program on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Welcome to all ladies. Any questions, please call Dolores Kresge at 610-759-0560.

From the



October 8 is Blood Pressure Day. One of our registered nurses will be in the Miko Chapel

following the worship services to check your blood pressure.

Youth Kick-Off



Olivia Dorko: The Kick-off was really fun because we got to play a bunch of outdoor picnic games and bond with each other.

St. John's Promotion of the Arts Fund

On October 31, 1517, a young German monk named Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of Wittenburg Cathedral. He had no idea that his bold critique of what he considered failings and corruption in the Roman Catholic Church would spark what we have come to call the Protestant Reformation, with huge impacts not only on religious theology and church politics, but on sociological and economic vision as well.

In this 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, I am reminded of the importance Luther placed on music in the church. For Luther, music was both a creation and a gift of God. It is the way the Christian community expresses praise, proclamation, adoration and thanksgiving for what God has done and continues to do. It connects us with others at St. John's, with others in the United Church of Christ and with other Christians around the world.

St. John's Promotion of the Arts Fund enables us to keep our music ministry strong and vibrant by providing funds for items needed above and beyond our regular music budget. The portable sound system which we have used for our outdoor services for the last two summers was made possible by the Promotion of the Arts Fund. *Won't you consider showing your support for St. John's Music Ministry by using your special Promotion of the Arts envelope for **October 29**, a Sunday in which we will commemorate the Reformation, and celebrate God's precious gifts of the Gospel and music?*

— Susan Frickert

"We are not here to be successful. We are here to be faithful."

—Mother Teresa

REFLECTIONS

by Pastor Jeff

*The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads;
Clement Clarke Moore, 1779 – 1863*

*In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on
all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your
young will see visions. Your elders will dream dreams. Acts
2:17–18 (CEB)*

It has already begun! It actually began when we moved into our new house. Okay, it began when we decided to make an offer on what is now our home. “It” is Christmas decorating chatter. Our daughter, Jamie, is a Christmas fanatic. For her, December 26 means only 364 more days until Christmas. At dinner one sunny 84 degree day in September, she wanted to know where we were going to buy our Christmas tree this year. No, wait a minute, our Christmas trees this year. She insists we need at least three and five or six would be better. Now, don’t get me wrong, I enjoy Christmas, both religiously and as a Holiday. I prefer to begin enjoying Christmas shortly after Thanksgiving. I don’t consider myself to be a “Scrooge,” but seriously, who needs more than one Christmas tree? Jamie sees our new home as a blank canvas that prompts her wildest Christmas decorating fantasies to come out. She has shared countless possibilities and scenarios of things we must do. Uncharted territory, the new frontier, boldly going where no Christmas decorator has gone before; these would all be descriptions of Jamie’s hopes for the coming Holidays. I must admit, I admire her creativity and enthusiasm for possibilities that arise out of her passion.

The prophet Joel, as quoted by Luke in the book of Acts, talks about the new day coming when God restores God’s people. In Acts, that promise is now interpreted as the return of Jesus at the end of this era of history when God’s realm will be fully revealed. Vision, passion, enthusiasm as we are prompted to look forward with hope to an amazing time. Last month, I wrote about the reVision program and you will be hearing more about it in the coming months. This program is about the renewing of our congregation as we minister in Christ’s name to the world. I wanted to take this opportunity to invite us to have the same approach to our lives. A new home has opened Jamie’s eyes to new possibilities because she sees a space that is not the same as the space we decorated last year. It is perhaps infinitely more difficult to envision a life we have been living for 20, 30, 60, 80 or more years as a new space, but maybe if we took a moment to step back, take a deep breath and look around, we could enable ourselves to see new possibilities for our own lives. Perhaps we could dream dreams and see visions of a slightly different future, one that has a deeper spirituality, a more intense prayer life, and an openness to ideas God might be nudging us to explore.

On the 22nd of this month we will be celebrating Golden Age Sunday, a day when we thank our seniors for their faithfulness and dedication to serving God and our church. What if we also made it a day to ask our golden agers to see visions and dream dreams for their and our future? In addition to honoring the past, we might see a different vision of our future world through the eyes of people who have been looking at it for a wee bit longer than we have. I am of the firm belief that God has an amazing future in store for each one of us and for our congregation, not to mention the Church of Jesus Christ. What vision do you see? What new thing might God have in store for you? Just do me one favor. If God shows you new Christmas decorating ideas, don’t tell me until after Christmas!



From Phoebe Ministries

I am deeply grateful for your outstanding generosity this past fiscal year and am delighted to include you in our prestigious giving society, the Century Circle. This recognizes donors who contribute \$1,000 or more during a fiscal year. Your support helps us continue our important mission of enhancing the lives of older adults. Through your giving, you have already made a significant difference in our residents’ lives.

Scott R. Stevenson, President & CEO

From The Nazareth Area Food Bank

September 12 — On behalf of the Board of Directors, I’d like to thank you for the many generous donations of non-perishable food collected during the summer months, as well as school supplies. Because of your kindness, 45 children received a bag or back pack filled with supplies to begin the new school year!

September 18 — On behalf of the Board of Directors, I’d like to thank you for the recent donation of \$261 from members of the congregation. Every dollar donated is a blessing to our clients, who face a daily struggle to feed their families. We are very grateful for your consideration of those less fortunate in our area.

Kay Stracko, Corresponding Secretary



October 1 - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
World Communion Sunday
First Communion Sunday
Amigos de Guatemala children's time and gift

Preparing for Worship at Home: Have a conversation with someone with whom you are not that familiar with. Listen to and identify what their needs may be.

Worship Invitation: Join us for worship today as we consider what humility really looks like through the lens of Jesus.

Message: **Have a Slice of Humble Pie**

... Kathy Sophie, Student Pastor, preaching

Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7; Matthew 21:23-32;
 Philippians 2:1-13

October 8 - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Switch It Up Sunday

Bring Offering Forward

Preparing for Worship at Home: Think about what you have done recently that shows your love of Christ and your service in God's "vineyard".

Worship Invitation: Come worship with us as we consider what it means to live a life that makes a difference.

Message: **A Life That Makes a Difference**

Scripture: Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14;
 Matthew 21:33-46

October 15 - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Partnership Sunday

The people who travelled to Germany in July as part of our Partnership program will be leading worship today.

Preparing for Worship at Home: Think about your favorite place to travel.

Worship Invitation: Come join us for worship and hear about our partnership with Christ with the people of the Protestant Church in Melsungen, Germany.

Message: **The German Partnership Experience**

Scripture: 3 John 1:2-8; Hebrews 13:1-2;
 Deuteronomy 10:17-21

October 22 - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
Golden Age Sunday - 10:45 a.m.
New Member Sunday
Anointing with Oil for Healing
- 8:00 & 10:45

Bring Offering Forward

Preparing for Worship at Home: When you think of your golden years, do you think about the years ahead of you, the present or several years ago? Keep track for one day this week on how many times you are thinking about the future and how many times you are thinking about the past.

Worship Invitation: What, if anything, do you owe God? Today at 10:45 we celebrate Golden Age Sunday. As we give God thanks for all of the ministry and service of some of our older saints, let us also ponder how we serve God in our time.

Message: **What Do You Give the God Who Has Everything?**

Scripture: Psalm 96:1-13; I Thessalonians 1:1-10;
 Matthew 22:15-22

October 29 - 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Reformation Sunday

Preparing for Worship at Home: Make a list of the ways you have loved your neighbor as yourself in the past month.

Worship Invitation: We celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's role in the Reformation. His faithfulness and dedication directly impacts how we interact with the world. Join us as we consider today's vision of what it means to practice our faith in the world.

Message: **How Do You Answer the Question?**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 1
 Matthew 22:34-46

Doing Faith

Faith is better understood as a verb than as a noun, as a process than as a possession. It is on-again-off-again rather than once-and-for-all. Faith is not being sure where you're going, but going anyway. A journey without maps. [As theologian] Paul Tillich said ... doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith.

—Frederick Buechner

From Your Consistory President

Greetings to everyone! I hope your Fall is off to a great start (although the first official days of it were 90 degrees!). As we get back into the swing of things at church with two Sunday services and the start of Sunday school, the leadership committees are working hard.

September was busy with taking on tasks such as approving some of the usual fundraisers for the year, getting ready to launch reVision with the congregation (more to come on this), starting to look at the senior pastor's year-end review, getting snow removal contracts taken care of for the winter, and working tirelessly on creating a budget for 2018! Speaking of the budget....there will be a congregational meeting to review and vote on the 2018 budget on Sunday, November 19, at 9:30 a.m. Don't worry, there will be refreshments to keep you alert!

I hope everyone has a great October, and, for the little ghosts and goblins, have a great trick-or-treat night! See you in church!

—Matt Sensenig



The Wills and Memorials Committee has received contributions to the Fund during the month of August 2017 in memory of **June Waha, Francis Donnelly and Edwin Houck.**

St. John's is appreciative of such gifts and thanks the donors for remembering their loved ones in this way. Please inform your family of your desire to have memorial money designated for St. John's.

Parish Ministrations

Baptism *(September 17, 2017)*

Norah Mae Stempo, born April 13, 2017
Parents: Katherine (McClellan) and Brandon Stempo



Deaths

Earl R. Remaley, born April 2, 1928
died August 22, 2017
Elenora Arndt, born July 29, 1922
died September 6, 2017



ATTENDANCE

Average Attendance
August 9:30 - 159



Daily tasks

When I awoke this morning, I asked, "How shall I live this day?" The answers were all around me:

- The fan said, "Keep your cool."
- The ceiling said, "Aim high."
- The window said, "Look outside yourself."
- The clock said, "Every minute is precious."
- The calendar said, "Stay up to date."
- The door said, "Take advantage of opportunity."
- The floor said, "Kneel down and pray."

—Unknown (adapted)

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- Ministers: All Members of the Church
 - Senior Pastor: The Rev. Jeffery A. Brinks
 - Student Pastor: Kathy Sofie
 - Parish Nurse: BrendaLee Howell, RN
 - Youth Ministry Coordinator: Marjorie Baltz
 - Director of Music: Susan L. Frickert
 - Handbell Director: L. Rick Hilborn
 - Director of Nursery School: Jane Radio
 - Child Care: Tammy Bacak
 - Nursery Coordinator: Stephanie McLaughlin
 - Office Manager: Corinne Remaly
 - Office Secretary: Kristina Caka
 - Financial Secretary: Pamela Wallaesa
 - Building Manager: Anthony Regec
 - Sextons: Shirl Young, Dawn Trapp, SuLin Flanagan
 - Editor: Peggy Benfield
 - Reporters: Laura Lee Staudt, Carol Hilborn, Dolores Kresge

Those Who Serve November

Volunteers are needed to greet on a Sunday morning. If you would like to volunteer, please call the church office at 610-759-0893 or sign up in the DeRemer Gallery.

November 5

8:00	Greeters	Gerry Strye
		1 Volunteer needed
	Head Usher	Terri Quinter
	Sound Board	David Weikel
10:45	Greeters	Becky Shepherd
		1 Volunteer needed
	Acolyte	Cecelia Rought
	Worship Hosts	Bill & Ruth Shirer
	Sound Board	Chris Manzo
	Child Care	Julie Schmittel
	Counting Chairs — Al	& Sandy Lynn

November 12

8:00	Greeters	2 Volunteers needed
	Head Ushers	Les & Ruth Anderson
	Sound Board	Pat Stracko
10:45	Greeters	2 Volunteers needed
	Acolyte	Maddie Schaller
	Worship Host	Nancy Thorne
	Sound Board	Aaron Schisler
		Jordan Sensenig
	Child Care	Kacy Miller
	Counting Chair — Willie	Donnelly

November 19

8:00	Greeters	2 Volunteers needed
	Head Usher	Richard Kraemer
	Sound Board	Walter Fries
10:45	Greeters	2 Volunteers needed
	Acolyte	Ian VanHorn
	Worship Hosts	Scott & Lisa Hoffman
	Sound Board	Mark Walter
	Child Care	Susan McNamara
	Counting Chair — Richard	Garr

November 26

8:00	Greeters	2 Volunteers needed
	Head Usher	Carl Solt
	Sound Board	Lou Murante
10:45	Greeters	2 Volunteers needed
	Acolyte	Katie Madson
	Worship Host	Nancy Thorne
	Sound Board	Michael Goch
	Child Care	Beth Sensenig
	Counting Chair — Charles	Spohn



The deadline for submitting newsletter articles is the 15th of each month. Articles may be submitted to the Church Office, the church's email or the editor's email, pjbring126@yahoo.com.

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Return Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 729
LEHIGH VALLEY PA

We are especially thankful for:



- ~ Breakfast Buffet
- ~ Golden Age Sunday
- ~ 2017-2018 Consistory
- ~ New Member Classes
- ~ Bible Workshop

October